I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and

(b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of a).

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) An isolated corynebacterial polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide that is identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 encoding a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and

(b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a).

8-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A member of the coryneform group of bacteria transformed by the polynucleotide according ~~to one of claims 1, 5, 6, or 7~~ to claims 5 or 7.

23. (Previously Presented) Bacteria according to claim 22, wherein the bacteria are of the genus Corynebacterium.

24-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claims ~~1, 5, 7, or 27~~ 5 or 7.

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29. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 28, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

30. (Previously Presented) A vector that is an expression vector pXKgpmexp comprising

(a) the polynucleotide of claims 5 or 7; and

(b) a restriction map as set forth in Figure 2.

31. (Previously Presented) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 28.

32. (Previously Presented) A host cell of claim 31 that is a prokaryotic cell.

33. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

34. (New) A method for production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

(a) fermenting a coryneform bacterial strain comprising an overexpressed *gpm* polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence according to claims 5 or 7 wherein said overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *gpm* polynucleotide or operably linking said *gpm* polynucleotide to a promoter;

(b) concentrating the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the concentration of said L-amino acid and coryneform bacterial strain in the broth; and

(c) isolating the L-amino acid.

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